

Entertaining Friends ... the Right Way

Whether you are having a few friends over for the evening, or inviting people to your apartment for a larger celebration, be proactive and responsible.

Talk with your neighbors beforehand.

- ☐ Let your neighbors know your plans a few days in advance .
- ☐ Give them your number and ask them to call if there are problems.
- ☐ If your neighbor does call, address the problem right away.

Manage your guests.

- ☐ Know who is coming.
- ☐ Tell people you invite whether it's okay for them to bring guests.
- ☐ Don't allow more people in than you can control.

Plan what to do if...

- ☐ ... uninvited guests arrive.
- ☐ ... guests are behaving inappropriately.
- ☐ ... guests are visibly intoxicated.
- ☐ ... intoxicated guests plan to drive.

How will you manage the situation?

How will you ask them to leave?

Who can help you intervene?

How will you ensure safety?

Involve others in keeping things safe and respectful.

- ☐ Ask roommates or friends to help monitor the noise level.
- ☐ Encourage guests to stay inside, and off roofs or balconies.
- ☐ Walk around the outside of the house once in a while to check the noise level.
- ☐ Pay attention to people's drinking habits.

If the police come...

- ☐ Speak with them directly.
- ☐ Don't argue with them.
- ☐ Take action right away, so that they don't have a reason to come back.
- ☐ Ask guests behaving inappropriately to leave.

Afterwards...

- ☐ Ask guests to keep their noise down on their walk home.
- ☐ Clean up the yard and put trash out on the scheduled pick-up day.
- ☐ Check in with neighbors. Address inappropriate guest behavior by apologizing and offering to make it right.

Reduce the chance of high-risk drinking.

As a host, you could be liable for someone else's poor judgment.

- ☐ **Plan to be sober.** Be a responsible host. Limiting your own drinking will allow you to better determine if a guest is sober enough to drive at the end of the night.
- ☐ **Don't serve alcohol to minors.** The legal drinking age is 21 and, as a host, you could be charged with furnishing violations if you allow minors to drink. Keep in mind: a minor can be considered in possession of alcohol if it's within arm's reach.
- ☐ **Provide plenty of non-alcoholic beverage options** for guests who are underage, who choose not to drink or who look like they are drinking too much too quickly.
- ☐ **Offer guests plenty to eat,** because food delays the body's absorption of alcohol.



- ☐ **Have designated drivers** who can escort folks home.
- ☐ **Plan ahead to get keys from all of your guests.** You should be the only person who can return keys to guests at the end of the night. This way, you can assess all of your guests before they leave.
- ☐ **Stop serving alcohol at least one hour before folks start leaving.** Think of this as last call, and serve only coffee, tea and other non-alcoholic beverages as the evening comes to a close.
- ☐ **Have a phone number for a cab company handy.** Post this number in a visible place, or offer it to guests who you think may be intoxicated.

Thanks to State of Michigan Liquor Control Commission for these responsible-party-hosting tips.

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dleg/Responsible_Party_Host_Tips_304285_7.pdf